

# YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

## PAST SCENES and OLD TIMES

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY - PUBLICATION -

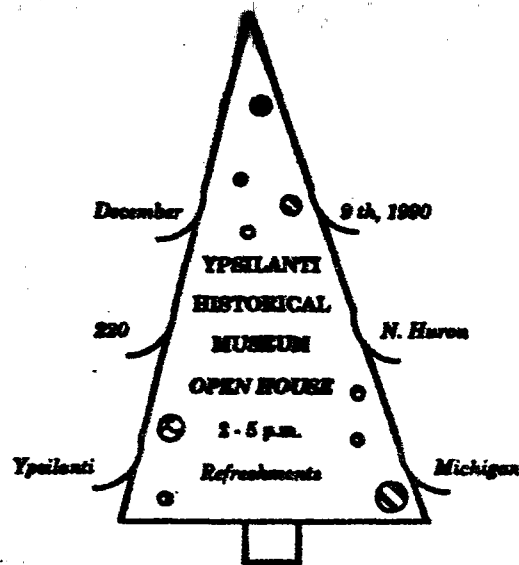
NOVEMBER 1990

No. 67



Ypsilanti Historical Museum  
- 220 N. Huron Street -

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Permit No. 399



*Come and Visit*  
*a*  
**CHRISTMAS**  
*of*  
**YESTER YEAR**

**December Visiting Hours:**

**13, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23  
27, 29, 30.  
2-4 p.m.**

**NO ADMISSION FEE**

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CALENDAR: 1990 - 1991

November:

11th Annual Membership Dinner-Stony Creek Methodist Church-5 p.m.

December:

9th Holiday Open House at the Museum 2-5 p.m.

Holiday Hours at the Museum: 2-4 p.m. December 13,15,16,20,  
22,23,27,29 & 30th.

January:

20th Membership Meeting

February:

14th Valentine's Day Party

March

23rd Spring Clean-up Day-Everyone is invited

April

21st Membership Meeting

May

21st Mayor's Exchange Day/Michigan Week Reception

June

12th Docents Luncheon

July

21st Membership Meeting

August

15,16,17,& 18: Heritage Festival

September

15th Annual Meeting

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Unified Budget 7/1/90-6/30/91

INCOME:

DUES:	\$ 1,500.00
DONATIONS:	2,000.00
INTEREST:	3,500.00
GIFT SHOP SALES:	3,500.00
SPECIAL PROJECTS:	<u>1,000.00</u>
	\$11,500.00

EXPENSES:

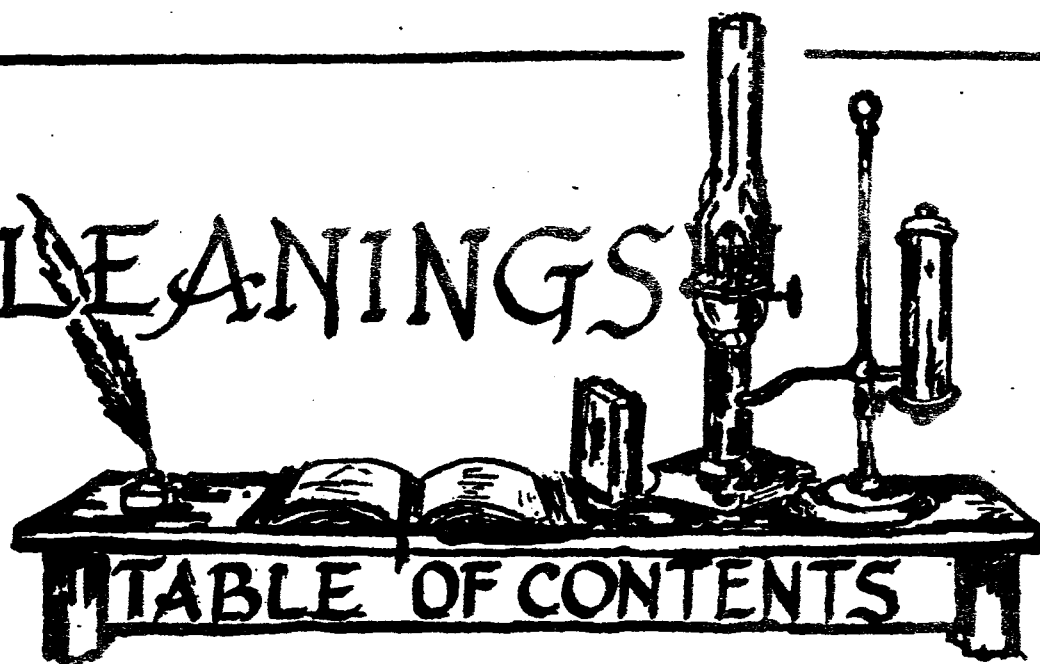
OFFICE OPERATIONS:	1,500.00
INTERIOR CLEANING	500.00
EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE	3,500.00
GIFT SHOP EXPENSES	2,500.00
REPAIRS	2,000.00
INSURANCE	700.00
PROMOTION EXPENSE	<u>800.00</u>
	\$11,500.00

Capital Funds:

Handicap Access project	\$20,000.00
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# GLEANINGS



No. 67

November 1990

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Cover Design and Table of Contents designed by  
Arthur J. Howard

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and consent given.

Office of Ypsilanti Historical Society is at 220 N. Huron Street  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Hours: Archives 9-12 Monday through Friday  
Museum 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Saturday  
and Sunday.

Dear Friends:

One of my first tasks as your new President was to sign a number of new membership cards in blank ready to be issued as we recruit members for the Society. I hope the supply is exhausted quickly! Have you asked other members of your family, your friends, neighbors, co-workers- everyone to join the Society and help in our important work?

Special thanks go to our retiring President Jack Miller who did stellar service in our behalf. We know he will continue his interest and the Society will benefit from his labors ever onward.

**MAJOR GOALS IN THE YEAR AHEAD:**

- \*Increase public awareness and use of the Museum
- \*Launch the handicap access work on the building
- \*Improve the parking situation near the Museum
- \*Focus attention on the need to increase our Endowment funds

We welcome two new directors appointed by the Board at our last meeting. Mary Kerr is the Director of our local Visitors and Convention Bureau and has done a great job of promoting the Museum with visitors to our area for some time. Councilman Charles Soule has been a good neighbor to the Museum and will be a valuable conduit to the City Council as well. We thank them both for being willing to serve.

We need your comments, ideas and suggestions as to how we may serve you and the entire community with a strong museum program and ongoing archives expansion and organization. Let us hear from you.

Peter B. Fletcher, President

# Acquisitions

Mrs. C. Hopp	2 Medicine bottles, 1 unknown 1 Oil of Sassafras. One was from Rogers Drug Store, 118 Congress(Michigan Ave) and 1 from Frank Smith DRug Store c.1900
Evangeline Lewis Estate	Tall Wooden Rack
Katherine Howard	Sewing Machine for Museum Use
Edna Badger	Huron Navy Mother's Club Scrap Book, Secretary's Record, Club Uniform, Cap, CApe & Sash.
Mrs. Emma Jones	1 Picture
Virginia Johnson	Old Fashioned Cube Pin Holder
Mrs. John F. Marsh	Edison Phonograph & 60 cylinders old, old songs.
Mrs. Frank Jackson	2 Pictures of World War I. 1 man leaving and 1 returning.
Mr. Robert Campbell	3 Family pictures of E.D.Jennings family Letters & Correspondence from Campbell family.
Bea Inwood	Sesquicentennial Dress
Eleanor Lee	Tiny Oil Lamp
Margaret Johnson	Tin box of crochet Thread
Mrs. Mariah Peters	Dress, Tan Shoes, Brocade Shoes Polly Pet Household Set
Mrs. John Barr	Oriental Rug, Misc. Articles Sachet container and ladies underwear.

### What New In The Archives

Several items of interest have recently been added to the Archives Collection. One is a copy of the American Heritage in which there is an articles entitled "Connecting with Eastern Europe" which mentions Ypsilanti being named as it was because of the influence of the Philhellene Societies in America. There is also a picture of the statue of Demetrius Ypsilanti. Our attention was called to this article by Mr. Herbert Cornish who also donated the magazine.

Another item received is a very attractive and well organized scrap book about Ypsilanti High School's Girl's DRum and Bugle Corps from 1935 to 1978, compiled by Mrs. Roger Katon (Lois Hopp). A section is devoted to the eight directors who led the corps during its time of activity. A history of each year is given followed by the lists of girls who were members of the corps. There were ten mothers and daughters in the corps; Dorothy Rice Norton and Cindy Norton; Lois Hopp Katon and Cheri Katon Brondyke; Suzanne Oakes Buck and Sue Buck; Marlene Moffett Britton and Charlene Britton; Cora MacDonald Delano and Diane Delano; Sue Baker Hopp Pittman and Lauri Hopp Kruzel, to name a few. There were many family members too; Cousins, Nieces, and sisters.

The Corps performed for many occasions in many areas and was noted for its precision and proficiency. The girls in their colorful uniforms were spectacular as they appeared in parades and competitions, and were called "The Pride of Ypsilanti".

The concluding paragraph of the history states "After 43 glorious years as "The Pride of Ypsilanti", the Highland Lassies disbanded. It was the only All-Girl High School Drum and Bugle Corps in the state- perhaps in the country- and indeed became famous for the many years it thrilled and dazzled crowds at home and far away. As the flags passed and our spectacular Scottish Corps marched by in perfect precision, it always brought a tear to the eye and a lump in the throat of Ypsilanti townspeople, and especially, former drum corps members. In 1979, a proud Ypsilanti tradition came to an end, but for those of us who remember it well, the Ypsilanti High School Drum and Bugle Corps will live in our hearts forever". (We have uniforms of the Corps on display in the Museum.)

The Forde of Dearborn by Ford R. Bryan is now part of our collection. It is an autographed copy donated by Mr. James Porter. The book contains a series of short stories based on information and photographs in the Ford Archives of the Henry Ford Museum and Greefield Village. The articles are illustrated and include information about the Ford Family History from the time before the first of the Fords came to America, until after the death of its most important member, Henry.

The author includes a chapter on Fairlane, Henry Ford's home, with many pictures, and another chapter about his farms and activities of the family.



The following letter has been sent to us from the Library in Skaneateles, New York because it gives some record of Ypsilanti in 1859.

The Seminary Building was at 210 West Cross Street where the Community Education Department now is located.

Both Mark Norris and Thomas Ninde were early benefactors to the city and there are streets named for both men.

Doris Milliman

Ypsilanti, June 15th, 1859

My dear Cousin Sarah,

I have not written to you in such a long, long while that perhaps you think I have forgotten you - far from it - you may rest assured that you are not forgotten by your friends in Ypsilanti, and especially by one to whom you have rendered so many kind favors as to Cousin Henry.

We have heard from you, indirectly however, from time to time of your visits in the West after leaving us some three years since your return to New York, thence to Massachusetts and your lengthy residence in Boston and finally of your return to your native home among the hills of old Onondaga. During all this time we have anxiously inquired about you and your wanderings, and have anxiously expected a letter from you until "hope deferred and made the heart sick." In the mean time, one must confess that we have been very negligent in not writing to you. But mother has worked just as hard as ever, for we have had a houseful of boarders continually and I think she has not written a letter for years.

Whether the girls and myself are as excusable or not I can not say, I think not however.

Helen has taught school about eight months or thereabouts since you left us with that exception she has been doing nothing "especial" until this summer. She is now attending school at the Seminary. Frank has been steadily attending the Normal (teaching school one term) and will graduate next Spring.

Little Sarah Drake has grown to be quite a girl. She has also been an attendant the the Normal until recently she was compelled to leave on account of ill health.

She is in the seminary this summer as she has a better opportunity to exercise there than at the former place. She is not a stout child and I fear her health never will be good. And now a few words about myself.

I finished my course in college two years ago this month and in August the following I entered the law office of Norris & Ninde in this city. I have attended their office very closely and studied diligently since my entree as a student.

About the middle of April, I went to Detroit and remained there until the last of May. at which time I was examined before the State Supreme Court and admitted to the Bar - as you will see by the paper which I send by the same mail. Besides during last winter I was connected with the "Ypsilanti Herald" - a new democratic paper established here - as local Editor and I am at present - during Mr. Norris' absence - Editor in Chief.

Although my time has been very much taken up, yet I can give no excuse for not writing - But didn't I write last? Still that is no excuse. What shall I say?

The best way is to crave your pardon and beg you to accept this. Will it suffice?

I will be twenty-two years of age one week from Sunday next. Pretty young to engage in practice as an attorney is it not? But I must do something. I shall remain here a few days (or weeks at most) for vacation - as my health is not the best now - then I'm off. I think of going to Grand Rapids, a young and growing city in the north western part of the state. It has now a population of about 15,000.

When will you come to visit us? Ypsilanti has changed so much that you would hardly know it. It is nearly twice as large as when you were here - is an incorporated city - is lighted with gas - has four new churches - two of which (the Presbyterian and Episcopalian) cost about \$25,000 each - and another just commencing - the finest hotel and public hall in the state (out of Detroit) and several new and handsome business blocks and private residences. The Seminary building has been destroyed by fire and a new one erected in its place at a cost of nearly \$50,000 - said to be the finest public school building in the United States with one exception the N.Y. Free Academy. In short you would be quite surprised at the improvement which has taken place here.

There was a very interesting revival of religion in the Presbyterian Church in this place last winter under the ministrations of Rev. Mr. Avery - an evangelist from Ohio.

About one hundred and twenty were converted - among whom were some of the most prominent citizens of Ypsilanti.

You will, doubtly, be happy to hear that I too have found the Savior. I have dispassionately considered the claims which God has upon me and have resolved henceforth to serve him. You know you always wished me to be a minister. I may be one yet. I have thought on the subject very seriously and have not yet dismissed it from my mind. I united with the Presbyterian Church in this place but shall probably unite with the Congregational Church in Grand Rapids - I like that one best - they have none here, but I think the Presbyterian Church will become one before many years.

I have an incident to relate before I close. Towards the close of last month I returned from Detroit to spend a short time at home, and while here I went to Ann Arbor (on Thursday the 19th) to attend the dedication of the Forest Hill Cemetery. I returned home on the evening train the same day, and before going home, I stopped near the R.R. Depot to talk with Mr. Ninde a moment in regard to some business I had to do in Ann Arbor for the office. While talking a gentleman stepped up to us and asked if either of us knew a Mr. Keith in the place and if so where he lived. Mr. Ninde replied in the affirmative and said that "Mr. Buck was going across the river and could easily show him the place". While crossing the bridge I asked him if he was just from the cars and on answering in the affirmative, I remarked that I had just come from A.A. in the same train. I soon learned that he was from Niles and asked him if he knew Mr. Hamilton's people. He said yes "and by-the-by" says he

when I interrupted him with "they are relatives of mine" he said Mr. H's daughter was on the same train going East and had intended to stop here, but fearful that she would not reach her place of destination before the Sabbath, she concluded not to. His name was Mr. Whitney and he was a delegate to the Cong. Association, which was to meet in Detroit that evening.

I returned to Detroit the next day where I met him and Rev. Mr. Andrews frequently during the session of the Association. Wasn't it strange? Give our regards to our Cousin and a hearty invitation to visit us on her return. Let us know before hand and we will meet her at the train. And won't you come too Cousin Sarah? You know how gladly we'll welcome you. Excuse the appearance of this letter as I write under a "racking" headache of two days duration. All send love. Write soon and believe me, ever, your affectionate cousin.

Henry Buck

(Henry Buck killed in the War. September 20, 1863)

From Mr. Webb Harwood, we have received a copy of the daily account book of the Huron Mill, a description of the Mill as found in the Archives is as follows:

The Huron Mill was built by Wm. Webb Harwood, one of the three proprietors of the original plat of Ypsilanti village in 1829.

The dam was erected by Mark Norris and Mr. Harwood. In 1835, the water power passed into the hands of John Gilbert, who in 1839, gave a half interest to his son-in-law, Abel Goddard. Mr. Goddard was the second president of Ypsilanti village in 1834-5, his father-in-law having been the first. Gilbert & Goddard soon sold the Alfred D. Hunter. The Mill then passed into the hands of assignees and was run by lessees until 1854 when it was sold to Nathan Follett and Alexander Ross: Nathan Follett was the father of Benjamin Follett and had recently moved from Batavia, New York. He was one of the principals in the Morgan anti-Masonic trouble at Batavia in 1826. He died October 14, 1875 in Ypsilanti and was buried at Batavia. April 10, 1873, Wm. H. and James P. Deubel, sons of Wm. Deubel, bought the mill from Mr. Follett for \$19,000 cash. The Deubels were experienced and energetic millers and soon instituted a new system of selling direct to jobbers, thus eliminating the middleman's profit. They were the first millers in the state to adopt this system. The building was 44 X 70 feet, 4½ stores high with a warehouse 40 X 30 feet. The mill burned about 1915.

Some entries that show prices of the year, 1830.

November 28th	to cash	\$3.00	
December	to corn 1 bu	.69	
January 5th	to cash paid Norris		6.07
	to corn 1 bu		.75
	to cash		.50
18th	to wheat 2 bu		2.25
	to 1 bushel feed		.69
	to drawing 10 cords of wood		2.88

Another entry as it is written in the ledger is:

5	16	Joseph Hunt	28.6	8	16
7	24	By work on Mill		1	00
6	50	By half County order	25	00	
8	75	By other half County order	25	00	
11	75	to drawing two loads goods			
11	87	from Ypsilanti		2	50
12	00	By highway work		15	00
1	42	By Brick and labor		22	22
4	85	Settled January 9th/1832	90	72	
4	00				

### MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

The Museum Gift Shop will be open for Christmas Sales at regular hours during December.

We will also be open for your convenience to Christmas shop on the following mornings:

MONDAY AND FRIDAY mornings from 10:00 to 12:00 Noon  
beginning December 10th.

Don't forget to support your City Museum!!!!

### SPECIAL EXHIBIT

Dolls from 1900 to 1990 will be displayed  
at the Museum from December 9th through  
January.

This exhibit is on loan from Marge Gauntlett  
and Grace Cornish

Greetings from the ARchives,

People are still talking about our wonderful Annual Dinner and Program in November. The dinner was excellent and plentiful. The speaker was one to be remembered for a long time to come. If he speaks in the area I certainly will make an effort to hear him again. As usual Peter could describe his program better than I but he has a different dictionary than I. Foster let me in on a secret one time that some of Peter's vocabulary isn't in the dictionary. This I believe.

As usual I AM STILL TRYING TO CATCH UP WITH FILES, CLEAN-UP, ETC. My aim not is to be 3/4 caught up by January 3rd(don't hold me to it.) There has been a lot of activity in the Archivies. A number of families searching for information on their ancestors, and some correspondence from our of state regarding same.

It is difficult to stay out of the gift shop(I go thru it when coming in to work and going out).. Marge has so many lovely things, not only for Christmas but for birthday, anniversary and remembering gifts.

Remember to come for our Open House December 9th, I know you will enjoy the decorations and we will have some delicious refreshments.

Do any of you have any memories you would like to share with our Society? Please let us know and I shall be glad to include them in the Gleanings. This is your publication.

We have enclosed a calendar for the coming year. Be sure to check the dates on your calendar because good things are going to happen.

The ARchives will be closed during Christmas and New Years as usual, altho the Museum will be open their normal days and hours.

We wish each and everyone a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Billie Zolkosky  
Archivist



MUSEUM ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Grace Cornish

Virginia Davis

Marjorie Gauntlett

Eileen Harrison

Kathryn Howard

Betty Kerr

Ann McCarthy

Billie Wardell

Doris Milliman, Chairman



YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jack Miller 710 Helen	Past President 482-5200
Herbert Cornish 830 W. Clark Road	Vice President 482-2108
Billie Zolkosky 1002 W. Cross	Secretary 482-8443
William Ealy 8448 Winters Lane Whitmore Lake, Mich	Treasurer 449-0448
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Marjorie Gauntlett 204 N. Wallace Blvd.	Gift Shop 483-1876
James Porter 1270 Hull	482-4296
Michael Millier 39 S. Hewitt	699-6374
Mary Lukens 1665 Cliffs Landing	487-5909
Special Appointees to the Board	
Mary Kerr Chamber of Commerce	482-4920
Charles Soule City Council	
Kathryn Howard 730 Cliffs	Publicity 482-7081

Board Meetings are held the  
First Thursday of each month  
at 7:30 p.m. at the Museum



YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

220 NORTH HURON STREET

YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197

☐

New Member

☐

RENEWAL

I wish to become a member of the Ypsilanti Historical Society.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of:

Individual \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Business \$75.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Patron \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

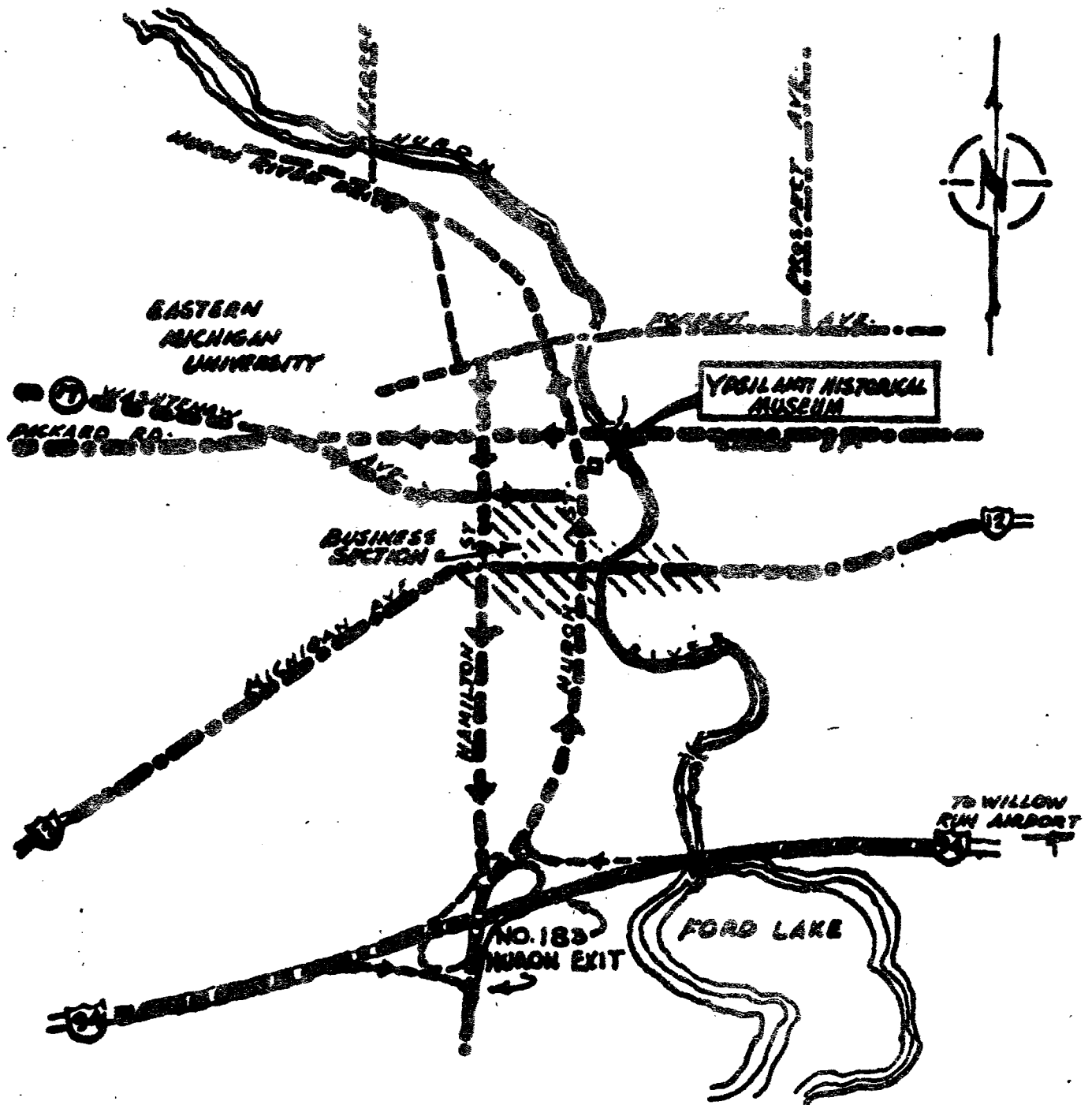
Life \$1000.00 \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_



## **CITY OF YPSILANTI MICHIGAN**

**YPSILANTI HISTORICAL MUSEUM-220 N. HURON STREET**

**PHONE: (313)482-4990**

**DORIS MILLIMAN  
CITY HISTORIAN**

**BILLIE ZOLKOSKY  
ARCHIVIST**

**MUSEUM HOURS  
THURSDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
2 to 4 P. M.**

**ARCHIVES  
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY  
9 to 12 NOON**

*W. H. H. H.*